IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

- 1-8. cancelled.
- 9. (previously presented) A system for performing a pattern match search for a data string having a plurality of characters separated by delimiters, said system comprising:

means for defining a subset of characters as delimiters such that all remaining characters are defined as non-delimiters;

means for constructing a search key by:

generating a full match search increment comprising the binary representation of a data string element, wherein said data string element includes a plurality of non-delimiters between a pair of delimiters; and

concatenating a pattern search prefix to said full match search increment to form said search key, wherein said pattern search prefix is a cumulative pattern search result of all previous full match search increments;

means for performing a full match search within a lookup table utilizing said search key;

means for returning to said constructing a search key, in response to finding a matching pattern within said lookup table; and

means for utilizing the previous full match search result to process said data string, in response to not finding a matching pattern within said lookup table.

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- 10. (previously presented) The system of claim 9, wherein said system further includes processing means for pointing to a character within said data string prior to constructing a search key.
- 11. (previously presented) The system of claim 10, wherein said processing means for constructing a search key further comprises:

means for evaluating said character to determine whether or not said character is a delimiter;

means responsive to said character being a delimiter for:

delivering a full match search increment into a search key register, wherein said search increment comprises a binary representation of all non-delimiters between said delimiter and an immediately preceding delimiter; and

concatenating said pattern search prefix to said search increment within said search key element;

means responsive to said character not being a delimiter for appending a binary representation of said character to said search increment; and

means for incrementing said pointer.

12. (currently amended) The system of claim 9, wherein said system further includes means for incrementing said search key to a next URL data string element, in response responsive to finding said matching pattern for updating said pattern search prefix.

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13. (previously presented) The system of claim 9, wherein said means for performing a full match search further comprises:

means for determining whether or not a full match for said search key exists within said hash table by:

hashing said search key to produce a hash key result;

indexing a hash table utilizing said hash key result to find a matching stored pattern; and

resolving collisions in said hash table utilizing a pattern search control block.

- 14. (previously presented) The system of claim 9, wherein said data string is a Universal Resource Indicator address, and said data string element is a URI element.
- 15. (previously presented) The system of claim 14, wherein said delimiters include period characters or slash characters.
- 16. (previously presented) The system of claim 14, wherein said means for constructing a search key further comprises:

means for scanning an IP data packet to determine a first URI element to by parsed;

means for initializing a URI pointer to a first character within said first URI element; and

means for initializing said pattern search prefix to zero.

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17. (previously presented) A computer program product for performing a pattern match search for a data string having a plurality of characters separated by delimiters, said computer program product comprising:

instruction means for defining a subset of characters as delimiters such that all remaining characters are defined as non-delimiters;

instruction means for constructing a search key by:

generating a full match search increment comprising the binary representation of a data string element, wherein said data string element includes a plurality of non-delimiters between a pair of delimiters; and

concatenating a pattern search prefix to said full match search increment to form said search key, wherein said pattern search prefix is a cumulative pattern search result of all previous full match search increments;

instruction means for performing a full match search within a lookup table utilizing said search key;

instruction means for returning to said constructing a search key, in response to finding a matching pattern within said lookup table; and

instruction means for utilizing the previous full match search result to process said data string, in response to not finding a matching pattern within said lookup table.

18. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 17, wherein said computer program product further includes instruction means for pointing to a character within said data string prior to constructing a search key.

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19. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 18, wherein said instruction means for constructing a search key further includes:

instruction means for evaluating said character to determine whether or not said character is a delimiter;

instruction means responsive to said character being a delimiter for:

delivering a full match search increment into a search key register, wherein said search increment comprises a binary representation of all non-delimiters between said delimiter and an immediately preceding delimiter; and

concatenating said pattern search prefix to said search increment within said search key element;

instruction means responsive to said character not being a delimiter for appending a binary representation of said character to said search increment; and

instruction means for incrementing said pointer.

- 20. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 17, wherein said computer program product further includes instruction means for incrementing said search key to a next URL data string element, in response responsive to finding said matching pattern for updating said pattern search prefix.
- 21. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 17, wherein said instruction means for performing a full match search further includes:

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instruction means for determining whether or not a full match for said search key exists within said hash table by:

hashing said search key to produce a hash key result;

indexing a hash table utilizing said hash key result to find a matching stored pattern; and

resolving collisions in said hash table utilizing a pattern search control block.

- 22. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 17, wherein said data string is a Universal Resource Indicator address, and said data string element is a URI element.
- 23. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 22, wherein said delimiters include period characters or slash characters.
- 24. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 22, wherein said instruction means for constructing a search key further includes:

instruction means for scanning an IP data packet to determine a first URI element to by parsed;

instruction means for initializing a URI pointer to a first character within said first URI element; and

instruction means for initializing said pattern search prefix to zero.

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